be discontinued, as equally efficient local men could be had on a much less pay. The post of Assistant Superintendents of Police was criticised as a useless appendage serving no practical purpose, and that of Prosecuting Inspectors as anomalous. Prosecuting Inspectors, the Member asserted, had no control over the cases prosecuted by them and their flying visits for examining a few witnesses were of no use as the conduct of those cases remained with the local Inspectors. He suggested, therefore, that the Prosecuting Inspectors might be placed under the Head Sirkar Vakil or their posts abolished.

The Member then suggested that the sanction of the Government, which was at present insisted on for the prosecution of Inspectors, might be dispensed with. He urged the necessity for the Police force being recruited with better discrimination from men of status and respectability, possessing a fair qualification of literacy and an ordinary sense of responsibility. The last suggestion of the Member was that the Commissioner and the District Superintendents of Police might be directed to pay surprise visits to all the stations with a view to give larger opportunities to the people to bring their grievances before them and also to deal rigorously with any lapse of duty on the part of the subordinate Police that might come to their knowledge.

Dewan's reply.—You have made many suggestions in regard to the reorganisation of the Police Department. These are matters which cannot be disposed of lightly and without careful consideration. In the matter of the retrenchment and reorganisation of the department I may tell you that opinions differ.

The rest of your discourse is taken up with a series of very serious statements made against the work, the conduct and the character of the Police force. You have referred to the case of one Kamalakshi which is still *sub judice*, to two cases of complaints brought by Police constables and thrown out by the sub-magistrate, Trivandrum, and to two cases under Section 90 of the Criminal Procedure Code which were thrown out by the magistracy. These are the only particular instances mentioned by you in support of the serious charges you have made and even these require examination. You also charge Magistrates with a mentality which favours Police prosecutions. I am not prepared to give you any reply on this point, without previous notice which you have not given me. I must obtain the remarks of the Commissioner of Police on the allegations you have made. They must be treated with the seriousness which they deserve.

IV. PRODUCTION.

AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIES AND CO-OPERATION.

46. Some needs and difficulties of the agriculturists of the Kalkulam taluk.

Mr. *Aiyappan Pillai Matevan Pillai* (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) began by requesting that irrigational facilities might be afforded to the people of the Kalkulam taluk for the cultivation of lands not commanded by the Kodayar channels. He observed that the water of those channels was not available for cultivation for the major portion of the Kalkulam taluk. Further, Government did not devote their attention to the maintenance of minor irrigational works; and in the Attur *pakuthi* nothing had been done towards the maintenance of such works during the last 28 years. At the time of the construction of the Pachippara dam it was the intention of the Government to open several channels to irrigate the outlying parts of the Kalkulam taluk, but that intention did not materialise. He, therefore, requested that those canals might be constructed and tanks dug in places where canals could not be opened.

The second point urged by the Member was the necessity for the construction of ryots' roads. The Member specifically referred to the following works in that connection:—

(1) The repair and maintenance of an old road in Perinchilampu in the Kalkulam taluk which would be of great use to the agriculturists of those and the neighbouring villages. The Chief Engineer was fully aware of the need for that road

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which, if maintained, would be useful for the transport of the produce of 800 acres of paddy lands, 3,000 acres of garden lands, etc.

(2) The opening and maintenance of a road leading from the second mile-stone in the Thuckalai-Kulasekharam road to the Padmanabhapuram-Tiruvattar road and also the construction of bridges and culverts on that road. The people of the locality had already opened the necessary trace, but it required further improvement.

(3) The construction of a road from the 2nd mile-stone in the Kulasekharam-Tripparappu road to Tiruvarampu. The Member pointed out that there was sufficient *poramboke* land for the construction of that road.

(4) The construction of a road from the 7th milestone, third furlong, on the Monday Market—Tiruvattar road to the Kumarakudi river.

While on the subject of the construction of roads, the Member dwelt at length on the Ryots' Roads Rules. He pointed out that those rules could be put into operation only in towns where educated people lived and not in out-of-the-way agricultural areas where it was difficult to form ryots' associations for the purpose. Further, he remarked that the economic condition of the people of those localities did not permit them to take up such works and so he requested that they might be taken up and constructed by the Government themselves.

Lastly, the Member referred to the damage caused by wild animals to agriculturists who dwelt in the vicinity of forests. Formerly, such agriculturists were permitted to use fire-arms without license, but that rule was cancelled in Mithunam, 1097. He complained that many of the agriculturists were not aware of the rules regarding licenses and that they had to undergo great hardship in getting licenses from the District Magistrates whose headquarters were far away. He, therefore, submitted that the inhabitants of hilly tracts might receive special consideration from the hands of Government and that they might either be permitted to use fire-arms without license or that a special officer be appointed with powers to issue licenses to them in their own villages.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to ryots' roads, you say that the rules applicable to the construction of such roads should not be made applicable to roads in agricultural parts. In a sense, every part of the country is agricultural, and as such I do not see why the rules should not be availed of by people employed in agriculture. Ryots' roads cannot be constructed in towns, and the rules relating to ryots' roads can apply only to country parts. I do not see any reason why there should be any distinction between one part of the country and another. Village roads, *i. e.*, roads which are not through communications, must, in the first instance, be cut by the ryots themselves. The masonry works required for the completion of these roads, as also their future maintenance, will be undertaken by Government.

In regard to fire-arms, I have said more than once that it is not desirable, in the opinion of the Government, to exempt people from taking out licenses. You have a District Magistrate at Padmanabhapuram to whom you can apply for free licenses. Such applications need not be sent to Trivandrum. If there is any delay in the issue of licenses, the fact may be brought to the notice of Government. Without licenses, fire-arms should not be kept. That rule cannot be altered.

47. Hardships of the ryots of the Neyyattinkara taluk arising from the tanks and irrigation channels in that taluk being left in disrepair.

Mr. Matevan Krishnan (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) spoke about minor irrigation in his taluk, and observed that, though in his opening Address at the eighteenth session of the Assembly, the Dewan had stated that the restoration of minor irrigation tanks in Neyyattinkara would be completed in six years, two years had already passed without any work having been so far carried out. In regard to the cost of the works and the future maintenance of the restored tanks, the Member represented that, if the maintenance was to be attended to by the ryots at their own cost, the expenditure on account of the restoration of the tanks concerned should be wholly borne by the Government. He also urged the desirability of publishing the draft of the revised Rules under the Irrigation Regulation for public criticism, before they were passed by the Government.

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